My experience with the May 23-30, 2015 Arrupe Justice Immersion at Javeriana University in Cali, Colombia was powerful and engaging. As a staff member in the University Ministry office at USF, this is the third time I have now co-led three Arrupe Justice Immersion in partnership with Javeriana University, and it is always good to be back at Javeriana in Cali! The focus of this particular immersion was on healthcare and medicine in Colombia and, specifically, in the city of Cali.

My group of eight people total was generously hosted by staff, faculty, and students of the Javeriana and wider Cali community, guided not only in medical lectures and activities but also shown around Cali. I appreciated being shown Colombian restaurants, museums, architecture, art, crafts, music, and more. I also appreciated hearing multiple models and perspectives of healthcare in Cali and Colombia and being asked to analyze how the healthcare system in Colombia is similar and different from the healthcare system in the United States.

The point that was most striking to me over the course of the week is how the Javeriana medicine/pre-med student program focuses on holistic healthcare and the “whole person” in both pedagogy and practice. I heard this perspective multiple times over the course of the week and believe that Javeriana engages this concept in all parts of healthcare and medicine. It was clear to me how engaged the students, staff, and faculty are with this holistic model, from local to international students in the program.

The work that that Javeriana pre-med students, doctors, staff, faculty, and nurses engage in is powerful, and I appreciated that everyone was open to tell and show my group about their work. I have more to learn about healthcare in Colombia but was given an excellent, well-rounded introduction to this topic during this Arrupe Justice Immersion. For this, I am grateful!